

WRITTEN TESTIMONY OF  
ERIC DISHMAN AND STEPHEN AGRITELLEY

General Manager, Health Innovation and Research  
And  
Manager, Home Health Innovation Lab, respectively  
Intel Digital Health Group  
Intel Corporation  
[www.intel.com/research/prohealth](http://www.intel.com/research/prohealth)

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Silicon Valley Boomer Venture Summit

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Good morning, my name is Steve Agritelley, manager of Intel Corporation's Home Health Innovation lab. It is an honor to be here today on behalf of Intel and speak to the planners of the upcoming White House Conference on Aging about the urgent need for our nation to invent new, home-based technologies that can help improve the quality of care, quality of life, and independence of seniors, while also reducing healthcare costs.

At Intel, we are testing early prototypes of home health systems with families who are struggling with Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, and cardiovascular diseases. We are learning that emerging information and healthcare technologies—combined with personal devices like home computers, televisions, and cell phones—offer new ways to increase prevention, early detection, behavioral support, and caregiver assistance. With American innovation and investment applied to the aging-in-place challenge, we know we could invent systems that dramatically reduce the emotional, physical, and economic costs of these—and other—devastating diseases that are occurring more frequently as our society ages.

With 35 million people in the United States over age 65—but 90 million in India and 140 million in China—our nation is hardly alone in these worldwide demographic changes that threaten healthcare systems and entire economies as these numbers double (and even triple in many places) over the next 25 years. These demographics also suggest opportunities to develop new markets for home health information technologies worldwide. Already, we see nations like South Korea preparing for the age wave by deploying broadband to every citizen, in essence building an infrastructure for future home health services. Additionally, cell phone technologies that help seniors to better manage diabetes and heart disease are emerging in the Asian marketplace. And, European leaders are joining together to fund significant R&D and pilot projects around “smart home,” telemedicine, chronic disease management, and personal health technologies aiming to keep seniors safe, healthy, and happy in their own homes.

But the United States shows evidence of quickly being left behind in this global marketplace as current policies and practices in science, business, and healthcare lead corporate America, academic labs, government agencies, and healthcare providers to largely ignore, avoid, or under-invest in aging-in-place and home health R&D. Under the auspices of the American Association of Homes and Services for the Aging ([www.aahsa.org](http://www.aahsa.org)), Intel has helped to create the Center for Aging Services Technologies or CAST ([www.agingtech.org](http://www.agingtech.org)), a national coalition of 300 technology companies, universities, and long term care providers who have come together to try to address the U.S. lag in developing and commercializing aging-in-place solutions for the entire continuum of care.

Over the past two years—at dozens of CAST and Intel meetings around the country—we have heard time and time again of the great *potential* of innovative technologies to help seniors and their families, but we also hear of the host of barriers to *realizing* that potential. From top-notch academic researchers who can find no funding to conduct large-scale home health prevention trials with seniors...to corporate labs who live in

liability fear of testing devices to aid with safety or medicine regime issues...to long term care providers who cannot install fall prevention technologies due to antiquated local regulatory rules...to physicians who cannot deliver remote care to seniors living in rural areas because of licensure restrictions...we hear of a nation that cannot get its act together to figure out a better way to care for our seniors—and for the millions of family members who need help providing for their aging parents.

We believe—and hope—that the White House Conference on Aging in December can be more than a once-in-a-decade gathering of delegates. We believe it can and should be the launch of a new national initiative to help us, as a nation, to prepare for the age wave that is upon us...and to keep us competitive in a growing home health marketplace that is emerging beyond our shores without us. Therefore, we ask the President to use this auspicious occasion to bring together leaders from multiple government agencies, CEOs from technology companies, health and long term care providers, and researchers from the best universities in the nation to launch an Age Wave Commission. Such a commission will enable inventing a technology infrastructure and culture of care that allows our seniors to age-in-place from wherever they and their families choose. Reaching these goals requires the collective excitement, challenge and imagination that enabled us to accomplish the first lunar landing in the 1960s, but also the urgency, investment and resolve with which we responded to Y2K, SARS and terrorism this decade.

I can think of no better use of our innovation, energy, and investment as a nation. I thank you for your time and consideration today.